

In the Claims

1. (original) A method for maintaining coherence of location information in a database of a distributed network of network jack units, comprising:
 - accurately configuring said location information of said database of said distributed network of network jack units initially;
 - monitoring said distributed network of network jack units;
 - upon detecting a change in said distributed network, assessing the significance of said change on the coherence of said location information of said database of said distributed network of network jack units; and
 - upon determining that said change is significant, initiating an action to update said database of said distributed network of network jack units.
2. (original) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said database comprises a centralized database.
3. (original) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said accurately configuring comprises:
 - accurately entering said location information at one of said network jack units; and
 - providing said location information to said database.
4. (original) The method as recited in Claim 3, wherein said providing comprises an action selected from the group consisting essentially of:
 - uploading said location information from said network jack unit; and
 - transferring said location information from a storage entity.

5. (original) The method as recited in Claim 4, wherein said storage entity comprises a portable data storage device.

6. (original) The method as recited in Claim 5, wherein said portable data storage device comprises a device selected from the group consisting essentially of:

- a first computer wherein said first computer comprises a computer used to perform said accurately entering;

- a second computer;

- a dedicated data storage and transfer entity; and

- a device comprising a portable data storage medium.

7. (original) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said monitoring is performed by a network management entity.

8. (original) The method as recited in Claim 7, wherein said network management entity comprises an entity selected from the group consisting essentially of a central control station and a redundant control station.

9. (original) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said detecting comprises discovering that one of said network jack units lacks locally associated location information.

10. (original) The method as recited in Claim 9 wherein said assessing comprises inferring that said network jack unit does not have location information entered therein and wherein said action comprises providing said location information to said network jack unit.

11. (original) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said detecting comprises discovering that one of said network jack units has locally associated location information wherein said locally associated location information is seemingly new.

12. (original) The method as recited in Claim 11, wherein said assessing comprises inferring that said network jack unit can have location information entered therein that is incorrect and wherein said action comprises:

 alerting said location information can be corrupt; and
 correcting said location information.

13. (original) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said detecting comprises discovering that a media access control (MAC) address of one of said network jack units differs from a MAC address listed for said network jack in said database.

14. (original) The method as recited in Claim 13, wherein said assessing comprises inferring that said network jack unit has had correct location information entered therein and wherein said action comprises updating said database.

15.-23. (cancelled)

24. (original) A system for maintaining coherence of location information in a database of a distributed network of network jack units, comprising:

said database for storing said location information;

a network entity coupled to said database for providing access to said database and communication with said network jack units; and

a management entity coupled to said database and to said network jack units through said network entity for monitoring said distributed network of network jacks wherein said management entity comprises a computer and wherein said system performs a computerized method for said maintaining coherence of said location information in said database of said distributed network of network jack units, said method comprising:

accurately configuring said location information of said database of said distributed network of network jack units initially;

monitoring said distributed network of network jack units;

upon detecting a change in said distributed network, assessing the significance of said change on the coherence of said location information of said database of said distributed network of network jack units; and

upon determining that said change is significant, initiating an action to update said database of said distributed network of network jack units.

25. (original) The system as recited in Claim 24 wherein said database comprises a centralized database.

26. (original) The system as recited in Claim 24 wherein said accurately configuring comprises:

accurately entering said location information at one of said network jack units; and

providing said location information to said database.

27. (original) The system as recited in Claim 26, wherein said providing comprises an action selected from the group consisting essentially of:

uploading said location information from said network jack unit; and
transferring said location information from a storage entity.

28. (original) The system as recited in Claim 27, wherein said storage entity comprises a portable data storage device.

29. (original) The system as recited in Claim 28, wherein said portable data storage device comprises a device selected from the group consisting essentially of:

a first computer wherein said first computer comprises a computer used to perform said accurately entering;

a second computer;

a dedicated data storage and transfer entity; and

a device comprising a portable data storage medium.

30. (original) The system as recited in Claim 24 wherein said network management entity is selectively centralized and distributed.

31. (original) The system as recited in Claim 30, wherein said network management entity is distributed and wherein said network management entity comprises a central control station and a redundant control station.

32. (original) The system as recited in Claim 24, wherein said detecting comprises discovering that one of said network jack units lacks locally associated location information.

33. (original) The system as recited in Claim 32 wherein said assessing comprises inferring that said network jack unit does not have location information entered therein and wherein said action comprises providing said location information to said network jack unit.

34. (original) The system as recited in Claim 24, wherein said detecting comprises discovering that one of said network jack units has locally associated location information wherein said locally associated location information is seemingly new.

35.-51. (cancelled)